



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

Volume XXXIV Issue 4

THE CUTTING EDGE

LENY — New York's Newest Trade Show

According to a spokesperson "For almost a decade, LENY, the Londonedge trade show in the UK has provided a showcase for alternative and club wear markets." On July 18-20, buyers and press were invited to Pier 92 to experience first hand its American debut. Three hundred high fashion, cult

brands and street wear from the UK, Europe and the US came together to showcase the hottest trends in alternative clothing, footwear, accessories and giftware. According to Carole Hunter, Joint President of LENY, "this was the first time for many of our UK and European contingents to exhibit their products to U.S. retailers and lifestyle media."

FI went to check out this newest addition to the admittedly over-

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THE NEW PHILANTHROPISTS

The fashion and cosmetic industries have always been about the latest trends, the hottest supermodel, the must-have handbag, the ne plus ultra gown worn by an "it" celebrity ... and just about everything else devoted to one's appearance. Yet, the glamorous world of fashion and beauty has always had another, more altruistic side — namely, the enormous amount of money and time donated to worthy charities that have positive global impact. In fact, philanthropic endeavors are

seemingly mandatory for almost every new product launch, store opening and fashion runway show.

Typically, breast cancer, HIV-Aids and environmental disasters such as Katrina, the Asian tsunami and others have garnered the highest visibility in terms of media coverage. However, there are other smaller charities and acts of kindness that have changed local communities in a good way. One recent unheralded example of selfless giving by a fashion insider is courtesy

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EVIL KITTY

crowded schedule of trade shows. What we found were some of the craziest, funkiest and, yes, even wearable items — from street to rock 'n' roll, punk to Goth, and heavy metal to club wear for both sexes. The following is a sampling.

DEMONIA: This Paris-based handbag line is not as scary as the name implies. Here were some fun shoulder bags in pink or white canvas edged and embellished in black patent with either an 'iron cross', star or the word punk spelled out across the front. Think Vivienne Westwood meets Betsey Johnson and you get the picture. More girly are the marabou trimmed patent purses in pink, white, red and black patent and the range of patent shoulder strapped "Glam-Rock" zip-top bags detailed with a contrast color glitter star and piping.

FACTORYBRAND: This is a terrific unisex resource out of LA. Working together with local artists and designers, Factory brand created unique leather belts and buckles that combined artful design with fine detailing. The newest collection is made with double stitched leather, backed with genuine suede. On offer are "Studs" aged sand-blasted and broken in belts in all black, brown with gold studs or white with black studs. From the "Patchwork" range, classic geometric shapes and rough edges come together in the same colorways. While the buckle offerings are almost too numerous to mention, the new oval Koi fish, the framed heavy metal skulls buckles and the scrimshaw collection are standouts. Each buckle is one-of-a-kind hand drawn artwork printed on genuine maple wood.

ADELINE STREET: Iconic punk

rocker Billie Joe Armstrong has launched an edgy new line of men's and women's clothing geared towards the alternative/punk scene. For men, the collection consists of long and short sleeved button-down shirts, tees, sweaters and tapered pants detailed with subtle embellishments. For women there are flattering woven tees, hoodies, cardigans, tops and a variety of dresses and skirts. Also included, an assortment of ties, belt buckles, caps and hats.

UNDERGROUND: At this footwear brand, the inspiration comes from its passion for a unique blend of Brit fashion, culture and music. The Anglomania range, inspired by everything great about the UK, blends tradition with punk plus an added underground twist. Featured are ballerinas, wedges, slip-ons and baseball boots. Key styles feature traditional tartan and tweed fabrics, with appliquéd Union Jacks on slip-ons and boots. Unique prints include the crown jewels, silver chains, dogtooth and postage stamps. Remember winkle pickers (if you're a Brit over 30 you do)? Well, at Underground, this '60s vintage look is back, updated for today's trendsetters with contemporary vulcanized styles for its Sharp Shoes range. Find baseball booties, lace-ups and slip-ons with pointed toes, in pinstripes, tartans and skull prints. Other groups include the darker/punk three-part Americana group and the B-movie inspired Horror Freak Show lines.

CHOOKA: More mainstream, but in a class of its own, is this line of mid-calf rain boots and rain slippers. These come in a dazzling array of colors and designs that combine form and function nicely. Patterns run the gamut from a classic Union Jack to skulls, hound's-tooth, plaids stripes and

'60s inspired "mod" dots.

LIPSERVICE: This is a rock 'n' roll clothing line for men and women including punk, fetish, Goth and streetwear. Obviously, black and red are the main colors with hits of white throughout. Zippers, lacings, buttons and stitching details abound. While most of the clothes are strictly for wannabee hipsters, there are a few styles that are more mainstream oriented, such as the red French terry motorcycle jacket with double layer jersey hood and a stretch canvas pleated mini skirt with graffiti print. Also hot, the plaid print stretch twill skinny, 5-pocket pant; a purple zip-front wrinkled nylon bomber jacket with rib cuffs and waist, and a charming black velveteen ruffled and belted trench, lined with an electric blue Victorian print.

ENCHANTWEAR: This line specializes in romantic Goth, historically influenced reproductions and occult/spiritual clothing à la Stevie Nicks. Leg-of-mutton sleeved Edwardian jackets, lace-up flip skirts and bustiers are some of the most versatile items. For men, there's a romantic poet's shirt and vest (Wuthering Heights' Heathcliff comes to mind).

BLUEBABE: From Germany, comes a cute line of shoes ranging from darling ballet flats to Mary Janes, kitten heels, sneakers and wood soled slides. Standouts include the hound's-tooth ballerina in black/red or black/white with a perky bow accent, the leopard print ballerina, pointed toe flats in solid leather or stylized flower print — all with self button detail. Slightly subversive is a black suede Mary Jane kitten heeled pump with rhinestone skull embellishment on the strap. This style is also available

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GOTTA HAVE IT: FALL/HOLIDAY ACCESSORIES '07

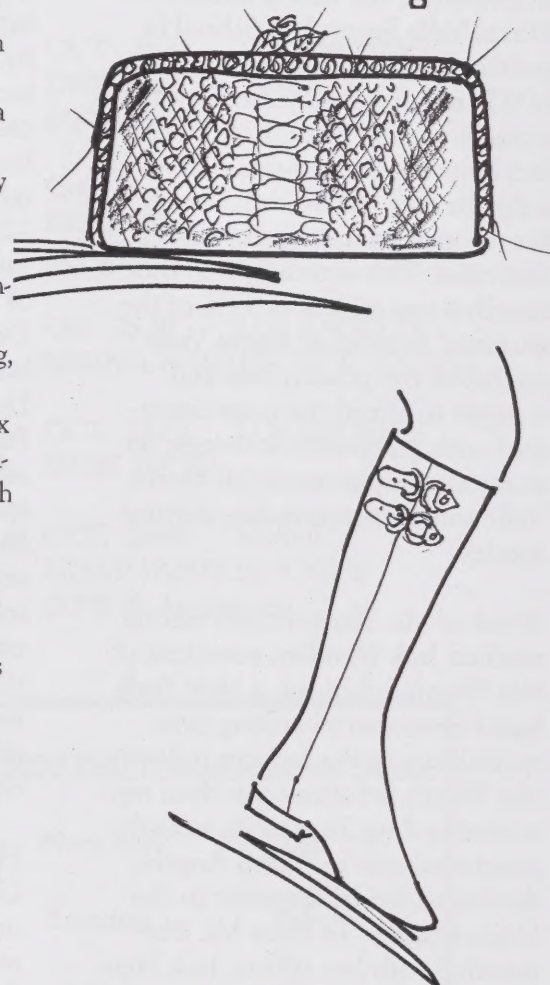
When it comes down to choosing the perfect accessory to complement one's wardrobe the phrase that comes to mind is "too much is never enough." Designers are offering a wealth of choices at every price range. From jeweled cuffs and waist cinching belts, to lace-up oxfords, ankle boots and a full spectrum of slouchy handbags, totes and clutches, this is the season to put your money on some of the freshest, most covetable accessories we've seen in a long time.

At both ends of the retail spectrum FI found a host of "gotta have it" items. For example, at Neiman Marcus the trend is towards winter white, animal skins, patent and shine. As in RTW, gray is a key color, seen here popped with shots of fuchsia or violet. More streamlined platform shoes and retro inspired lace-up oxfords are directional. Newer still are the gray ombre patent shoes from Prada and Stuart Weitzman, and Manolo Blahnik's ankle boot with quilted cuff, while Barrera's jeweled cuffs are a fabulous addition to any wardrobe. Equally enticing were Macy's offerings, from Jessica Simpson's gray suede ballet flats with faceted stone embellishment and Style & Co's gray hound's-tooth flats with black bows, to BCBG's calf/suede oxfords. Alfani's red patent totes, with outside pockets and detachable gold chains, and Betsey Johnson's black patent clutch with gold "lock" are on the money, as are gorgeous zebra patterned cuffs and the '60s inspired metallic silver buckled pumps by Marc Fisher.

Going further afield some of the hottest accessories can be found at the following resources.

BODEN: Check out the color-block suede sling-back platform wedges in fawn, magenta and black, the buttery soft zip-top squashy leather satchels in palm, red, coffee and plum and the ballet pumps in tan/dark brown zebra pattern. **CHARLES L. THOMAS:** We love the structured leather "Spicy Shirley" handbag with magnetic flap closure and two silver front snap turn lock closures. This comes in curry, cinnamon or paprika; while the "Kathy", an updated version of the doctor's bag, with outside pockets and stud detailing, comes in bronze, copper and onyx Italian leather. At **TUMI**, designer David Chu adds a luxurious preppy touch in his debut collection for the brand. Best pieces were his open totes, in jacquard khaki toile or coated linen with vachetta leather trim, and gorgeous Italian pebbled leather hobos, satchels and shoulder totes in black, brown and yellow with contrast topstitching and silver hardware. Sporty and vintage inspired satchels looked right on target at **COACH**. The brand's signature turn lock closures combined with buckled straps added a rugged appeal to many of the bags. Equally rugged were the knee-high stub toed leather boots with chunky stacked heels and wide buckled straps. Velvet ballet flats in jewel tones with turn lock detailing looked newsworthy, as did the structured minaudières in blue and beige snakeskin. Showstopper is

CLARA KASAVINA



DONALD J. PLINER

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of Niki Livas, head designer and co-owner of the New York based formal wear company Zum Zum, whose sparkling donation of 40 brand new gowns possibly changed the lives, and certainly brightened an evening, for the young women in the senior class of one Big Apple, Lower Eastside school.

The back-story on this tale is equally as charming as the generosity of Ms. Livas. In anticipation of their memorable May 18th senior prom at Giando's, located on the water in Brooklyn, the now graduates of Marta Valle Secondary School (a public middle and high school in NYC), relied on Amy Blumenthal, a teacher at the institution, to collect donated bridesmaids dresses to help alleviate the financial strain for the girls attending the night's festivities. This action by Ms. Blumenthal was critical as 90% of the students' families at Marta Valle fall below the poverty line and struggle to afford the costs associated with graduation activities, let alone eat proper meals (all Marta Valle students receive free daytime meals).

Word of Ms. Blumenthal's efforts reached Jack Hendler, president of Net Worth Solutions, a New York-based investment banking firm specializing in the fashion industry. Net Worth Solutions was then representing Zum Zum in its recently concluded sale to Alfred Angelo, the largest bridal importer in the United States. To assist Ms. Blumenthal with her efforts, Jack Hendler then contacted Niki Livas of Zum Zum, who graciously offered the gift of new, individually fitted gowns and dresses from the hip, fashion conscious label to all senior girls of Marta Valle. This charitable

gift was most appreciated by the graduates who, in prior years, had used second-hand dresses that were not sized specifically for them. Consequently, these graduates enjoyed their prom in style, without the hindrance of a financial obligation, and went home with beautiful eveningwear hopefully destined for additional memorable occasions.

Another example of generous gift giving was the inspiration for ChangingThePresent.org, the website of Important Gifts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tapping into the American spirit of generosity, ChangingThePresent.org collects monies for donor gifts that are earmarked for charities that have been thoroughly vetted by Important Gifts Inc. and its impressive 125 member Board of Advisors, including Nancy Lublin, founder of the fashion-conscious non-profit Dress For Success. Simply put, a bride and groom or even one's Dad (in lieu of yet another tie on Father's Day) can register on the site and construct a wish-list that specifies to which charities they'd like the dollars (or donation items) sent. Additionally, those charitably inclined can browse by cause or name to find thousands of donation opportunities from leading nonprofits. And naturally, the site allows nonprofit organizations to register for a free listing.

How it works is that Important Gifts forwards the gifted amounts to the nonprofits at the end of the month following the donation after deducting a small transaction fee of three percent and thirty cents per donation item, primarily to cover its merchant expenses in processing the Website donation and certain other processing, overhead and

administrative costs. Donors get an immediate receipt and a personalized card is mailed to the recipient to announce that a donation has been made in their name.

According to Robert Tolmach, President of ChangingThePresent.org, the idea for this charity of charities, was inspired by the over \$7 billion dollars that Americans spend on greeting cards sent to each other. During a phone interview with FI, Mr. Tolmach explained, "In our case, you can personalize your greeting card, you can write a personal message, change the art, and it will say what you did in your friend's name. All of this makes it feel like a gift. We hope to capture a small amount of the \$250 billion that we are gifting one another and give it to charity instead. We also hope to make it tangible rather than just writing a check and forgetting about it."

For more information visit: <http://changingthepresent.org>

INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

SEPT. 22-29 MILAN
MILAN RTW SHOWS
(Women's Spring/Summer RTW)

SEPT. 25-27 NEW YORK
MATERIAL WORLD
(Global Fabrics & Sourcing)

SEPT. 29-OCT. 2 CHICAGO
NATIONAL BRIDAL MARKET

SEPT. 30-OCT. 8 PARIS
PARIS RTW SHOWS
(Spring/Summer)

OCT. 3-5 HONG KONG
INTERSTOFF ASIA
(International Textiles)

OCT. 3-5 HONG KONG
FASHION ACCESS
(Handbags, Travel Items, Footwear,
Leather Garments, Accessories)

OCT. 3-7 PARIS
W WORKSHOP
(RTW/Accessories)

OCT. 4-7 PARIS
TRANOI
(Women's RTW, Accessories,
Footwear)

OCT. 5-8 PARIS
ATMOSPHERE d'ETE
(Spring/Summer Womenswear)

OCT. 5-8 PARIS
PARIS SUR MODE
(Women's RTW)

OCT. 7-9 NEW YORK
OFF-PRICE SPECIALIST SHOW

OCT. 8-10 LOS ANGELES
LA MAJORS MARKET
(Junior, Denim, Young Contemporary)

OCT. 10-13 MUMBAI, INDIA
TEXWORLD INDIA
(Apparel Fabrics)

OCT. 12-13 NEW YORK
MANHATTAN VINTAGE
CLOTHING SHOW

OCT. 13-16 ATLANTA
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S
MARKET

OCT. 14-18 LOS ANGELES
MERCEDES-BENZ FASHION WEEK

OCT. 15-17 LOS ANGELES
INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE
MARKET

OCT. 20-25 NEW YORK
BRIDAL MARKET

OCT. 20-22 NEW YORK
WEDDING CHANNEL COUTURE
(Bridal)

OCT. 21-24 DALLAS
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S
MARKET
(Apparel & Accessories)

OCT. 21-24 DALLAS
BRIDAL MARKET

OCT. 21-24 DALLAS
MEN'S APPAREL SHOW

OCT. 21-24 DALLAS
SWSTA SHOE SHOW

OCT. 22-NOV. 2 NEW YORK
SUMMER/TRANSITION MARKET
(Women's RTW/Accessories)

OCT. 23-25 TOKYO
W MOOD
(RTW & Accessories)

OCT. 26-30 LOS ANGELES
GIFT & HOME MARKET

OCT. 26-28 LOS ANGELES
DESIGNERS & AGENTS
(RTW/Accessories)

Oct. 26-29 LOS ANGELES
BRIGHT
(RTW/Accessories)

Oct. 26-30 LOS ANGELES
SPRING/SUMMER RTW MARKET

OCT. 27-29 LOS ANGELES
SHOE SHOW

OCT. 28-30 MIAMI
MIAMI FASHION FOCUS
(RTW & Accessories)

2008 Fall/Winter Runway Shows

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| New York | Feb. 1-8 |
| London | Feb. 11-15 |
| Milan | Feb. 18-25 |
| Paris | Feb. 26-March 4 |

LUCKY GIRL



BLUEBABE

"CUTTING EDGE"
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with a jeweled star instead of the skull.

SAILOR JERRY: This is a lifestyle brand that combines classic American styling with a modern twist. Items are based on the artwork of Norma "Sailor Jerry" Collins. For holiday there are 100% preshrunk cotton jersey long and short sleeve tees, cute French terry rope stripe hoodies and a stretch rayon blend wrap dress with "fiesta roses" print.

PRAK PRODUCTIONS: Fun all the way! From NYC subway line allover map print hoodies and accessories. For spring/summer 2008 the line expands to include Manhattan or Brooklyn tonal zip front hoodies and tees. We flipped for the range of London Line back-

packs, messenger bag, clutch and wallets with subway map linings and hangtags. This is one novelty collection we loved.

LUCKY GIRL: This is a gorgeous collection of handmade leather handbags, belts, buckled wristbands and wallets. Noteworthy is the flap front, adjustable shoulder strap bag available in black embossed lizard, cherry or brandy unlined leather with a lucky Heart, pin-up girl or twin panthers design on the flap. These are sophisticated, unique and totally cool.

EVIL KITTY: Cute separates for the free spirited GenX crowd. There are a good many fun items to choose from including, stripe sleeved pullover hoodies, buck-

led tops, tees, mini skirts, shrugs etc. Evil kitty is a cute rebellious feline who appears stamped on every piece. Think Britney meets Paris with a touch of Juicy Couture thrown in for good measure!

PYRRHA



KAREN MITRE

"GOTTA HAVE IT: FALL/HOLIDAY '07"
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the word to describe CLARA KASAVINA's vintage inspired hand jeweled creations, the Swarovski crystal framed python clutches with drop in chains, and other exotic skin handbags. Typical of the collection is her luxurious framed handbag in mink with tassels and charms suspended from gold chains and an oversized hand-creased leather bag with genuine crocodile accents and a baroque brass buckle. At AGNES & HOSS we fell in love with their signature silk prints. These are translated into silk/wool trimmed obi belts; chic, leather trimmed clutch bags with turn lock closures; stylized bowler, hobo handbags and totes, all with coordinating leather trim. The collection's print patterns are original designs inspired by a moment of discovery or act of curiosity and each is

accompanied by a story detailing its inspiration. Two or three color ways are available. The DOONEY & BOURKE giraffe collection features patterns of a different kind. Striking in their bold brown/white design, the standouts in this range are the medium safari bag, large logo lock satchel and slouchy sac. Also handsome, the travel satchel and shoulder bags in nubuck and "zebra," the green double handled round leather satchels, and shoulder clutch from the Alto collection. Simply elegant are KOTUR's handbags and minaudières. In the latter category the extensive range includes polished gold or silver basket weaves, gunmetal, bronze; python skins, vintage brocades and snakeskin. By day the options include a chic quilted suede chain handled bag in espresso or black, and a roomy

velvet top handled bag in pieced navy/multi. SANDSTORM, in partnership with leading Scottish cashmere brand JOHNSTONS, introduced a capsule collection of seven stylish bags and accessories created from a combination of safari-grade Kenyan leather and Scottish estate tweed (olive/tan windowpane). Each bag is handmade to demanding specifications and possesses an understated elegance. The robust weekender with shoulder carrying handles and leather trim, the tote with magnetic clasp fastening and mobile phone pocket, and shoulder bag with zip closure will age beautifully. FLYING FIG, purveyor of accessories and home furnishings, offers a collection of exquisitely hand-embroidered stoles, wraps, scarves, jackets and boleros in silks, cashmere and baby soft wools.

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We loved the hand painted, signed and numbered, peacock embroidered diaphanous stole in black chiffon. So special are these items that Flying Fig's scarves are sold at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and other equally prestigious museums and boutiques. DONALD J. PLINER showed some fabulous boots. Particularly chic were the low-heeled numbers, especially the "Dory", in black baby calf or tomato antique gator, detailed with two sporty buckled straps. Other winners included a very sexy "Erotic", a stretchy high heeled, above the knee boot with pointed toe in taupe/black tiger print; and "Elisa", in black suede or taupe/black embroidered elastic. KAREN MILTRE classifies her handcrafted handbags as works of art. This is evident in her use of luxurious materials such as alpaca, furs, sterling silver, semiprecious stones, glass beads and Inca-style textiles. Outstanding styles include an alpaca bag with silver/semiprecious stone shoulder strap and crocheted ball trim, a carryall in an Inca-style fabric with alpaca fur trim, and a coin and horn shoulder strapped bag in tiger striped horsehide detailed with a silver "coin". FURLA can always be relied upon to produce stunning collections. To celebrate the brand's 80th anniversary, there's an exclusive limited edition bag based on one of the company's historic designs and is offered in four versions and in various materials. For winter, it's made of natural pony skin alongside buffalo-effect calf and polished crocodile printed calf. An oval plate bearing the words "Furla's 80th Anniversary" appears on each bag.

SATELLITE is a name to remember for its delicate yet intricate jewelry. Fashioned with enamel, semiprecious stones, Swarovski crystals, etched glass, sequins, silk thread, glass and Japanese beads and gunmetal, black or bronze color metal. Standouts include the multiple chain necklaces with pendant

drops, the wide jeweled cuff with faceted blue glass cabochon center stone, and the Victorian inspired green on bronze pendant drop earrings and ring. Taking a cue from intricate baroque designs, VIRGINS SAINTS & ANGELS debuted its Antigua collection inspired by antique lace and handcrafted in Mexico. The collection layers delicate pieces of 24K gold and sterling silver for a selection of cuffs, drop earrings, hairpins, buckles and even a reinterpretation of a rosary. PYRRHA's "Seals" collection is a series of pendants, earrings, charm bracelets and rings cast from antique wax seals into sterling silver, ancient bronze and 14K rose or yellow gold. Each design has a symbolic meaning taken from family heraldry. BREMONT is a new British watch brand, offering a range of men's timepieces made to exacting specifications using the finest quality Swiss components. Each stainless steel case is nine times as durable as an average steel case watch and the anti-reflective, convex sapphire crystal is equally hard. Standouts include the ALTA-C, with a classic chronograph with sub dials, designed to offer exceptional visual clarity and the ALTA-Z, the flagship of the range with automatic movement. This self-winding wristwatch has a dual time zone display, three sub dial chronograph, luminous markings and an internal, rotating bezel. Like all watches in the range, it's water-resistant.

For some women only the real thing will do! At the recent Jewelry Information Center's annual press luncheon, on display were some mouthwatering pieces. Worth taking out a second mortgage were these gorgeous "trinkets": PRINCE DIMITRI FOR ASSAEL's ebony wood cuff with 18K gold and fancy colored diamonds; RICHARD KORWIN's one-of-a-kind 14K yellow gold man's buried treasure ring with an antique silver coin; LEVIAN's brown diamond flower ring set in 18K gold; MICHAEL WERDLGER's brown and yellow diamond

stackable rings in tri-color brushed gold; HEATHER MOORE JEWELRY's charm necklace in 14K gold with hand-stamped vintage letters and faceted tourmalines; YOSHI HARARI's diamond twist wrap necklace in handcrafted 24K gold, oxidized sterling silver and diamonds; BIGLIOTTI OF FLORENCE's hand-woven satin finish 18K yellow and white gold minaudière with scalloped flap, edged with 49 diamonds and detachable gold shoulder chain; MATTIOLI JEWELRY's chandelier ring in 18K rose gold with pink Murano glass and diamonds and, last but not least, ERICA COURTNEY's platinum and diamond earrings with spectacular aqua drops (28.32 carats).

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